

CURRENT NEWS

NEW YORK TIMES 9 FEBRUARY 1966 P-1

South Vietnamese Chiefs
Bar Talks With VietcongBy CHARLES MOHR
Special to The New York Times

HONOLULU, Feb. 8—The leaders of South Vietnam said today that they would not negotiate with or recognize the Vietcong and showed they had little enthusiasm for a peace negotiations with North Vietnam.

Premier Nguyen Cao Ky and South Vietnam's chief of state, Lieut. Gen. Nguyen Van Thieu, gave their views in a news conference this morning after a full day of conferences yesterday with President Johnson.

Premier Ky took the opportunity to present his case in an impromptu speech at the conclusion of the news conference in which he said he was "not a warlord" nor a corrupt Asian despot.

"I don't even have a second-hand American car," he said. The Vietnamese leaders also made the following points:

¶They regard the port city of Haiphong in North Vietnam as a legitimate military target for bombing, but they have not pressed this point of view on President Johnson.

¶Marshal Ky believes that decisive political results will have been achieved in the South Vietnamese countryside by the end of 1967, that Communist influence will have been broken and that only small guerrilla military units will fight on after that time.

¶While they discussed a further build-up of American troop strength in South Vietnam with Mr. Johnson, final decisions on force levels or totals had not been made.

The two men, who are key members of the 11-man directory of generals that rules South Vietnam, were repeatedly pressed to talk about the possibilities and tactics of negotiating an end to the war. Most of their replies were indirect.

Asked if he would deal with the National Liberation Front, the insurgent political organization of which the Vietcong is the guerrilla arm, Premier Ky asked sarcastically: "You mean the National Enslavement Front?"

But he was direct enough in saying that it was his point of view that he could not deal with or enter a coalition with the National Liberation Front.

Both he and General Thieu described the Front's membership as "criminals" and "assassins." When General Thieu was

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U.S. Officials Doubt
Hanoi Notels FeelerBy JOHN W. FINNEY
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8—American officials were skeptical today that a newly disclosed request in a letter from President Ho Chi Minh to President Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan of India represented a genuine peace feeler by the North Vietnamese Government.

A flurry of excitement was set off this afternoon when reports were received from New Delhi that the North Vietnamese leader had asked the Indian Government in a two-week-old letter to use its good offices to restore peace in Vietnam.

But the excitement, which even touched off encouraging statements by Congressional leaders, quickly died as the New Delhi reports were analyzed by State Department officials. As Representative Cornelius E. Gallagher, a New Jersey Democrat and a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said after checking with the State Department, "Unfortunately it appears to be another false alarm."

The State Department declined any immediate comment on the ground that the Indian Government had not yet informed it of the letter and therefore the department was unaware of its contents. After the reports from New Delhi were received this afternoon, the State Department hurriedly queried the Indian Government about the letter.

Neither on the basis of the news reports nor on the basis of the diplomatic inquiries was there any encouragement or belief that the North Vietnamese President, in his letter, was attempting to use the Indian Government to open the door to negotiations.

As appraised by American officials, the letter was almost a duplicate of one that President Ho Chi Minh sent on Jan. 24 to leaders of Socialist nations denouncing the American

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Escalation in Vietnam
Is Opposed by GavinBy Murrey Marder
Washington Post Staff Writer

The United States must beware of falling into "a baited trap" that could carry it into war with Communist China at a point of Peking's choice, the Senate inquiry on Vietnam was told yesterday.

Even now the United States may have lost control of the initiative in the Vietnamese war, retired Lt. Gen. James M. Gavin told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. To add another 100,000 Americans there possibly might start to bring Chinese into the struggle, he said.

"We can't afford to pull out," said Gavin, but "we shouldn't escalate."

It is time, Gavin told the Committee, to "stop, look and listen"; to "take a look at the alternatives realistically, and in light of our total global commitment . . ."

The dilemma in the Vietnamese struggle, as Gavin posed it, accorded with the views of those on the Committee who are challenging the Administration to clarify and justify its strategy and objective. But even the Administration's most militant supporters chose to interpret Gavin's testimony as supporting many of their own views.

Significantly, in front of the television cameras, no one advocated what American military leaders in South Vietnam reportedly are urging: increasing the 200,000 American troops to 400,000 and perhaps by 1968, to 600,000.

Gavin's testimony took up the entire second session of televised hearings in the inquiry headed by Sen. J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.)

In the five hours of testimony, Gavin maintained he was either misunderstood or misrepresented by Administration spokesmen who have publicly attacked his views on Vietnam.

His military critics, who include Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, now a special adviser to President Johnson, and Gen. Earle G. Wheeler, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, had assailed his published views on Vietnam.

Taylor called it a "holding strategy" based on fighting the war from American-held "enclaves" on the coast of South Vietnam, and termed it a prescription for defeat, un-

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BALTIMORE SUN
9 FEBRUARY 66 P-6RESERVES
CALL HINTED
BY OFFICIALSBy HENRY L. TREWHITT
[Washington Bureau of The Sun]

Washington, Feb. 8 — Official sources now acknowledge the likelihood that some reserve forces will be summoned to active duty this year as the commitment of ground forces in Vietnam passes 300,000.

The decisions are still open, they said, but one informant official observed today that the pressures of need against availability are causing "constant consideration" as to the role of the reserves.

They suggested that the first units to be called would be those with special qualifications, such as communications and experience in harbor management.

Subject Left Open

So far both President Johnson and Robert S. McNamara, Secretary of Defense, have spoken publicly only of filling the growing demands from active forces. McNamara has left the subject open only to the extent of remarking that the Administration did not want to call reserves "at this time."

Official reports put about 200,000 American troops in South Vietnam. The general expectation is that the commitment will be increased at least to 300,000 over the next several months.

Several factors will contribute to the pressures for at least limited use of reserves, defense sources said.

They listed, among other things, the prospective draft of college students who previously have been deferred and the prospect that some units of the selected reserve force will reach ready status by midyear.

The special reserve is a high-priority force of 150,000 National

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GAVIN.....CONT'D

worthy of the United States.

Gavin said he advocated neither "withdrawal" nor "retreat." Nor, he said, had he urged pulling back to the American-held perimeters and "digging in."

Instead, Gavin advocated "staying where we are" in South Vietnam, holding areas where "we have an air base, a seaport and troops" and continuing "search and destroy" forays primarily from these perimeters.

He agreed that bombing of actual military targets was advantageous, but said World War II showed that "urban bombing" produced more harm than good.

As for the prospects of ending the war, Gavin said that "in each estimate" by top officials returning from Saigon, "they were wrong in their calculation; I can only surmise that the initiative is not ours." The real hope for ending the war, said Gavin, is through negotiations.

The danger, said Gavin, is that "we want to be sure that we don't get so deeply committed in one place that we lose track of everything else."

Instead of becoming "mesmerized" by Vietnam, and getting over-committed in that one sector, said Gavin, "Let's see . . . what we can do with what we have" there now.

"I think we will end up fighting in areas other than Vietnam," he said; "For instance, Thailand . . . My feeling is that the most decisive fight will take place in Thailand, on the Mekong (River)."

Despite warnings that the Vietnamese war must not become "an American war," said Gavin, "It certainly is becoming that."

If the American mission "is to really secure" South Vietnam, instead of to achieve a negotiated settlement, he said, "this is a commitment of tremendous magnitude."

Gavin said "I would hope that we could prevail upon the Saigon government to consider ways and means to establish a government that would be satisfactory to the people of South Vietnam, and achieve 'ultimately, a relationship to Hanoi.'"

Gavin is an unusually articulate but soft-spoken man who rattles off his thoughts at machine-gun pace. He is now president of a research and engineering firm, Arthur D. Little, Inc.

In the Eisenhower Administration, Gavin rebelled at the "massive retaliation" concept of nuclear warfare then in vogue, and publicly charged that it neglected the more likely danger of limited wars. President Kennedy brought Gavin back to public service as Ambassador to France.

Testimony yesterday recapitulated the fact that in 1954 Gavin, then Army chief of

S.VIET CHIEFS.CONT'D

asked if he would agree to negotiate with North Vietnam, he said that South Vietnam was not the aggressor and that "we ask nothing but a just and honorable peace."

Although the South Vietnamese leaders said it was up to North Vietnam to cease its aggression, they avoided disassociating themselves from Mr. Johnson's offer to engage in unconditional discussions with Hanoi. Yesterday, in the first plenary session of their conference with the President, Premier Ky said: "We recognize that a search for peace must continue and we recognize the wisdom of exhausting every approach to reach a peaceful settlement."

'We Are Not Warmongers'

The Vietnamese leaders have clearly impressed the United States delegation to this conference, and the main importance of their news conference was that it gave them an opportunity to try to impress the American public, too.

In his closing speech in which Premier Ky virtually expropriated the television cameras—he said: "Understand me. Understand why we fight on and you will be big, free American men."

"We are not warmongers," he said, "I am not a warlord. More than anyone in the world today we love peace."

Premier Ky seemed to hope to assure the United States that, by fighting to assist South Vietnam, it would not become bogged down in an interminable war.

"I predict," he said, "that if we continue like this, that by the end of 1967 . . . We will eliminate the influence of the Communists in South Vietnam."

He said that some Vietcong guerrillas would "stay," but he added that they would be in "very small numbers because they will have no support from the population."

Few of the Premier's American and Vietnamese advisers in Saigon would agree with so

planning, supported the position of Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway, President Eisenhower's Army chief of staff, in opposing direct American military involvement in Southeast Asia in what was then the French Indochina war.

Gavin recalled President Kennedy's concern, in 1961, over possible American involvement in land war in Asia as a result of the conflict in Laos. He said Mr. Kennedy conferred with him about that and the President was "absolutely right" in seeking, instead, a political solution for Laos.

Now, once again, said Gavin, there is danger of a war with China under "appallingly disadvantageous" conditions.

He said he entered into public comment on the war in Vietnam, through a letter in a recent issue of Harper's Magazine, because he felt the United States' involvement in Vietnam "had become alarmingly out of balance." Gavin said: "My feeling was that we were being escalated by the will of our opponent rather than by our own judgment."

RESERVES...CONT'D

Guardsmen and Army Reserves designated by McNamara last year as the nucleus of a reserve reorganization.

Its three division plus six infantry brigades are scheduled to reach a state of readiness by June 30 which would halve the training period required following a mobilization order.

But defense authorities suggest that limitations of supply and training facilities will postpone their readiness, despite priority. Moreover, there has been no indication so far that current prospects include a general mobilization of this force.

Stennis Talk Recalled

They suggest rather that special units will be called first and that a general mobilization of reserves would come only after a heavier drain on the draft reservoir than is now foreseen.

Senator Stennis (D., Miss.), chairman of the Senate subcommittee on Preparedness, put the outlook in that context in an address January 27 before the Legislature in his home state. He predicted a "partial call-up" without specifying a date, adding that "so far as I know" there were no plans for a mobilization at present.

But Maj. Gen. Winston P. Wilson, National Guard commander, recently called it a "big surprise" that no reserves were called last year and said that "we had better be ready for anything."

optimistic an appraisal. In fact, last night Maj. Gen. Nguyen Duc Thang, the Minister of Rural Pacification, said at a news conference that only 1,900 of South Vietnam's 15,000 hamlets were scheduled for "pacification" in 1966 and that it might take five to six years to pacify entirely a typical Vietnamese province.

Fulbright, in pointed response to criticism aimed at his Committee by the Johnson Administration for the current inquiry, quoted from a statement made by Mr. Johnson in May, 1954, about examining American policy. At that time Mr. Johnson was Democratic Majority Leader. Fulbright quoted him as saying:

"We will insist on a clear explanation of the policy with which we are asked to cooperate. We will insist that the Congress and the American people be treated as adults, that we get the facts without sugar coating."

The Committee's hearings will resume Thursday, with George F. Kennan, former Ambassador to Yugoslavia, as the witness.

Chairman Fulbright said Secretary of State Dean Rusk may testify again Monday but there will be no attempt to force Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara to testify in public, "If the Administration doesn't want him to present his case," said Fulbright dryly, that's its business."

CHICAGO TRIBUNE
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M'NAMARA RIPS ADVICE TO HALT BUILDUP IN VIET

New York, Feb. 8 (AP)—Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara today said using American troops in Viet Nam only to guard American bases, and sending no more troops to that country, would allow Viet Cong guerrillas to "roam at their will over the countryside."

McNamara, in Honolulu with President Johnson for talks with South Viet Nam leaders, made his remarks in response to testimony by Lt. Gen. James M. Gavin [ret.] today before the Senate foreign relations committee.

McNamara said Gavin, in substance, suggests "we should take our present troops and consolidate them into several enclaves, to protect our bases and sit." McNamara said such a strategy would almost certainly "enable the Viet Cong to roam at their will over the countryside, subject the people not now under their control to their control, achieve the full destruction of the government, and ultimately lead to the overthrow of the government . . ."

HANOI NOTE...CONT'D

peace offensive and insisting that no negotiations could be held except on North Vietnamese terms.

Postscript Mentioned

In the case of the letter to the Indian Government, President Ho Chi Minh is reported to have appended a postscript calling attention to the special responsibility that India bore as chairman of the three-nation International Control Commission in Vietnam.

It was this postscript apparently that caused hopeful speculation in some Indian quarters that the North Vietnamese Government wanted the Indian Government to use its good offices to arrange peace negotiations.

But American officials believed that this hopeful interpretation misconstrued the intent of the postscript. In the context of the tough, denunciatory tone in the main body of the letter, officials believed that in the postscript Ho Chi Minh was merely calling upon India to exercise her responsibilities as chairman of the commission to end American "aggression in Vietnam."

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Bill Ties Pay of GIs To Federal Workers'

United Press International

Rep. L. Mendel Rivers proposed legislation yesterday that would give the armed forces an automatic pay increase if Federal civilian workers get one.

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HUMPHREY IS DUE IN ASIA CAPITALS

By PHILIP POTTER

(Sun Staff Correspondent)

Honolulu, Feb. 8—Vice President Humphrey is flying to Saigon and other Asian capitals today, at the President's direction, to press forward the military, social and economic measures decided upon at the three-day summit meeting of American and South Vietnamese leaders here.

His itinerary, other than a two-day stop in Saigon, has not been announced but it was clearly lined up with the two-pronged program President Johnson laid down yesterday to bring the Vietnam conflict to a conclusion.

The President said the South Vietnamese, with their American and other allies will move "steadfastly ahead on the military front" to defeat and punish the Communist aggressors in South Vietnam and at the same time move "vigorously" to meet the social and political aspirations of the people of that country.

Troop Request Seen

Speculation is that the Vice President will focus on the latter during his Vietnam stop, while his trips to other Asian capitals—possibly including the Philippines, Korea and Australia—will be to seek additional troop strength for the Vietnam war.

The Australian Government is known to be considering augmentation of the one-battalion force it now has in South Vietnam, while there have been reports that Washington is urging South Korea to send another division to add to the Army division and marine brigade it now has committed to the conflict.

While in the Philippines for the inauguration of President Ferdinand Marcos in early January, Mr. Humphrey discussed with Filipino leaders their plans to seek legislative authorization for dispatch of a combat team to South Vietnam. Marcos made it clear he favors this course for his country.

An attempt last year by the Macapagal Government in the Philippines to get legislative authorization for such a move passed the House, but was not taken up for consideration in the Senate.

Announcement of the Humphrey mission to the Far East and elsewhere in Asia was made at a briefing this morning by Bill D. Moyers, White House press secretary, a few hours before the Chief Executive took off for the continental United States.

He will stop in Los Angeles, as will Mr. Humphrey, on his way to inform the Vice President on the decisions made here and to direct him to serve as a "major domo" in coordinating the joint South Vietnamese-American effort to lift the living standards of the Viet people.

Mr. Humphrey also is expected to carry much of the burden of selling the President's program,

20 Million Leaflets Dropped on North Vietnam

U.S. Scatters Record Number Over Populous Areas

Special to The New York Times

SAIGON, Feb. 8 — United States planes showered the last of some million propaganda leaflets over the population centers of North Vietnam today in the largest leaflet drop north of the demilitarized zone.

It was the first leaflet drop over North Vietnam since bombing was resumed there Jan. 31.

The leaflets apparently were designed to explain to the North Vietnamese the reason why the United States had renewed the bombing.

"For several weeks," the leaflet began, there was no bombing in the North as the Republic of Vietnam and other nations throughout the world sought ways to end the war and bring peace to our land."

"Your Lao Dong (Communist party of North Vietnam) rulers foolishly rejected these sincere efforts to restore peace," the message added.

A United States spokesman said that on Friday planes began dropping the leaflets over the Red River delta region, which includes the capital city of Hanoi and the port of Haiphong, and over the populous coast between the delta and the demilitarized zone.

Except for a brief but rather furious battle yesterday some 230 miles north of Saigon, in which elements of the 101st Airborne Division reported having killed 63 Vietcong, military sources reported relatively little ground fighting in the last 24 hours.

United States pilots flew 19 missions over North Vietnam

yesterday, the sources said.

An A-4 Skyhawk light jet bomber from the U.S.S. Ticonderoga was hit by antiaircraft fire and became the seventh United States plane lost over North Vietnam since the resumption of bombing. Observers said the pilot ejected safely but apparently was captured.

G.I.'s Find No Enemy

By NEIL SHEEHAN

Special to The New York Times

ANLAO VALLEY, South Vietnam, Feb. 8—The men of the United States First Cavalry Division (Airmobile) marched through this valley today in search of the Vietcong and their North Vietnamese allies, but all they found were deserted villages and frightened old men and women and children.

The Anlao Valley, a narrow strip of rich land watered by the Anlao River and dotted with palm groves and rice paddies, winds between two high ridges near the central Vietnamese coast, 285 miles northeast of Saigon.

The valley has been in Communist hands since December, 1964, when a regiment of Vietcong killed or dispersed 600 Government militiamen who were defending the former district headquarters here. The guerrillas then discouraged the Government from recapturing the valley by ambushing and decimating a South Vietnamese armored column that attempted to fight its way up the road and reoccupy the district headquarters.

The airmobile division fought a series of bitter engagements with a mixed regiment of North Vietnamese regulars and Vietcong on the coastal plain east of the valley late last month.

Intelligence reports indicated

that the enemy had fled into the Anlao Valley, carrying large numbers of wounded with them. It had been hoped that they could be trapped and destroyed there.

Today's march through the valley, as well as the earlier battles nearer the coast, are part of a vast allied offensive that began Jan. 25 and that involves more than 20,000 American, South Vietnamese and South Korean troops.

The offensive is an ambitious effort to annihilate four Communist regiments, two of them North Vietnamese and two Vietcong, that dominate strategic Binh Dinh Province and the adjacent province to the north Quangnai.

If the regiments can be destroyed, Communist pressure on Government towns and outposts in the region would be relieved and pacification efforts aimed at regaining control of the Communist-dominated countryside would be aided.

Yesterday morning three battalions of Airmobile troops landed from helicopters onto the ridges on the western rim of the valley while two other battalions moved into position on the eastern fringes of the valley.

A battalion of United States marines was also lifted in helicopters into the northern end of the valley to seal off that escape route.

All day the troops worked their way through heavily wooded areas toward the valley floor. Today it was hoped the enemy would be forced into battle in the peasant hamlets there. But the peasants told the United States troops that the guerrillas and the North Vietnamese had departed three to five days before.

both on his Asian travels and to Congress and the American people upon his return. He has long served as a key legislative lieutenant of the President in getting the Administration's domestic program through Congress.

Kept Informed

Mr. Humphrey also has been kept up to date through membership in the National Security Council, through daily intelligence briefings equivalent to those given the President, and by frequent and close collaboration with Mr. Johnson on the foreign policy objectives of the Administration.

Last December, when Mr. Johnson was launching his "peace offensive," Mr. Humphrey was sent off on an eight-day mission to Japan, the Philippines, Taiwan and Korea to explain the American position on Vietnam to Government leaders.

On the current trip to Vietnam and other nations in the area, he will be accompanied by Acerell Harriman, Ambassador at large; McGeorge Bundy, special assistant to the President of national security affairs; Leonard Marks, director of the USIA; Lloyd Hand, United States chief of protocol, and Jack Valenti, special assistant to the President. Both Hand and Valenti were with Mr. Humphrey on his Far Eastern trip earlier this year.

Ten-Day Trip

The new Humphrey mission is expected to take at least ten days. The delay in announcing the full itinerary, it was learned, is simply a matter of getting diplomatic clearance. Cables to the countries concerned went out from here last night.

Prime Minister Nguyen Cao Ky; Nguyen Van Thieu, chief of state, and other South Vietnamese officials were advised of it last night at a 3 hour and 17 minute dinner meeting with the President, one of the many working sessions the two governmental groups have had here in the past three days.

Ky said today the President had been "enthusiastic" about the South Vietnamese Government's plans for improvement of living standards, economic stabilization and pacification of the countryside looking toward establishment this year or next of an elected democratic regime.

Ky's Statement

At the dinner, Ky said, the President told his own top advisers, including four Cabinet members to study the decisions made here and come up with concrete proposals for American help.

"Mr. Johnson told me that Mr. Humphrey would be the best man in the Government to help us in this program," Ky said. "We

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2 MIDGET SUBS TO ENTER HUNT FOR LOST BOMB

ALMERIA, Spain, Feb. 8 (AP)

—Two United States midget submarines will start to search this week for a nuclear bomb missing after the crash of a B-52 bomber, informed sources said today.

Nearly 70 pieces of wreckage from the plane have been located off Palomares beach, 65 miles northeast of Almeria, and officials hope the bomb is among them, the sources said. The plane crashed Jan. 17 during an in-flight refueling maneuver.

The sources said the submarine Alvin was completing preliminary tests at the Rota United States-Spanish naval base and the submarine Aluminant was to arrive at Rota today for similar tests.

think the best way to get it implemented is by having the Vice President join us here and go back with us to Saigon so he can see the problems and needs at first hand and return to help make decisions."

REDS HELD AIDED BY U.S. SUPPLIES

Viet Cong Seen Supporting War With Stolen Goods

By HELEN DELICH BENTLEY
(Maritime Editor of The Sun)

Washington, Feb. 8—The Viet Cong are supporting their war against South Vietnam by stealing substantial quantities of United States supplies for their own use, the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee was told today.

Because this source for war materials and food stuffs is so vital to them, the Viet Cong have refrained from blocking the channel leading to Saigon harbor, Representative McGrath (D., N. J.) testified.

The supplies are lifted from dockside warehouses where they are first stored after removal from ships, it was said, as well as from trucks as they head towards interior parts of South Vietnam.

Escalation Not Desired

McGrath, who spent the Christmas holidays in South Vietnam, also said another reason for their not blocking the channel was reluctance on the part of the Viet Cong to escalate the war.

McGrath was the first witness at the opening session of the House committee hearings on the shipping situation in South Vietnam.

In his introductory statement, the chairman, Representative GARMATZ (D., Md.), pointed out that the escalation of the Vietnam war has "dramatically emphasized the weakness" of the United States' merchant marine and maritime program.

"We have seen our finest and best ships diverted from their normal routes to be rushed to the Far East only to remain at anchor for inordinate lengths of times because of failure to plan for expeditious discharge," the chairman said.

Men Lacking

"We have seen our ships sailing shorthanded because of a lack of licensed and unlicensed men to meet the new demands.

"We have seen our essential trade routes stripped of their good vessels with the substitution of outmoded carriers, some of which did not carry the American flag.

"The ship repair yards throughout the country have been overloaded with ships broken out of the reserve fleet to meet the emergency, and there is grave doubt concerning the effectiveness of our reserve fleet program in the light of the break-out experiences."

McGrath said there is little doubt among American officers in the River Assault Group that the Viet Cong "could, at almost any time it wishes, disrupt shipping to Saigon by sinking a sin-

Reds Warn Of Bases On Moon

Reuters

GENEVA, Feb. 8 — Russia warned today that military circles planned to set up bases on the moon.

The chief Soviet disarmament negotiator, Semyon Tsarapkin, told the 17-nation disarmament conference that the prospect of lunar bases made it all the more imperative that the delegates get on with their task.

Replying to congratulations on the successful landing of the Soviet moon probe Luna 9, Tsarapkin said military circles were already scanning the moon to establish military bases there. He did not specify which military circles he meant.

The Soviet delegate also warned that Europe was sitting on a nuclear volcano because of U.S. and NATO generals.

Bombs had recently dropped in Europe, he said, citing the loss of a U.S. nuclear weapon when an American bomber crashed in Spain last month.

He said only "a stroke of luck" had saved the Spanish population there from catastrophe.

Tsarapkin also spoke in support of an East German proposal that called on both East and West Germany to renounce nuclear arms. It also demanded that the nuclear powers should withdraw such weapons from German territory.

gle vessel in a nnnnnnnarrow po of the channel.

"...There is little doubt that the bulk of supplies shipped into South Vietnam via Saigon are literally at the mercy of the Viet Cong.

He stated that there are only ten piers in Saigon where ships can discharge and that dozens of others must anchor in the middle of the river and unload onto lighters which must, in turn, be unloaded again on the shore.

"The unloading is done by civilian labor and isn't very fast to start with, and this necessary duplication of effort slows down even more an already painfully slow process," the witness said.

"...Because of the lack of adequate unloading facilities at Saigon, there are usually as many as 30 ships standing off the channel entrance in the South China Sea he said."

Suggestions To Make Navy More Attractive Offered

[Washington Bureau of The Sun]

Washington, Feb. 8—The Navy today announced a program to make itself more attractive to career men, including more time at home and a GI bill for dependents.

Many of the 82 broad recommendations—with dozens of sub-headings — will require congressional approval; others are being studied by the Department of Defense, while still others are being carried out by order.

The plans are the result of a year's study directed at reversing what Vice Adm. Benedict J. Semmes, chief of naval personnel, called a "very unfavorable trend" toward leaving the Navy among both young officers and enlisted men.

Cost Put At \$50,000,000

Rear Adm. John M. Alford, who directed the policy board that carried out the study, estimated that the cost of applying the recommendations for the first year might total \$50,000,000. They ranged from the minor irritations of Navy life, some of which the board found could be eliminated, to major areas such as educational opportunity for service men and their children.

Robert H. B. Baldwin, Under Secretary of the Navy, said the proposals are under study by the Department of Defense to determine how they might be applied to the other services.

Semmes said the first-term reenlistment rate last year was about 21 per cent, down from a record 25 per cent in 1963, while the rate for those who already have established career status varies from 79 to 83 per cent.

Among the recommendations were several to increase educational opportunities for officers and enlisted men as well as their dependents. One proposal would

amend "The Cold War GI bill to pass entitlement to a dependent after twelve years of active duty" by the service man.

Several proposals were made for improving working conditions—including the design of vessels with more room for personnel. Financial improvements were suggested across the board—ranging from free dental care to higher pay to increased living allowances ashore.

Baldwin said the board considered more than 2,700 letters besides many conversation with officers, enlisted men and their wives. The complaints, he reported, extended from minor psychological factors to the major problems of extended disruption of family life.

Uniform Change Suggested

On recommendation called for development of "a new, more attractive and utilitarian working uniform as a replacement for dungarees." Another proposed family service centers at Navy shore stations.

In general the plan calls for emphasis on arranging assignments so that men may spend as much time with their families as possible. As an example spokesmen said they are considering revision of the requirement that a ship must have one fourth of its personnel aboard when it is tied up at an American port.

Pay and separation from family were mentioned most often among reasons for leaving the Navy, they reported, but other factors always were mentioned. Many wanted to pursue higher education.

Despite numerous complaints about the Navy enlisted man's uniform, Alford reported, it was not a significant factor among reasons for leaving the service.

U.S. Denies Charge By Soviet on Crash Of Atomic Bomber

Special to The New York Times

GENEVA, Feb. 8—The United States rejected today a Soviet assertion that "luck" saved the local population from a disaster when an American B-52 nuclear bomber crashed over the southeastern coast of Spain last month.

William C. Foster, head of the United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, said that the crash actually "demonstrated just the opposite" of the Soviet suggestion that effective controls over American nuclear weapons were lacking.

No nuclear explosion occurred following the collision of a bomber and a tanker plane during a refueling operation, the United States official said, "be-

William Bundy Says Hanoi Is Not Under Peking Thumb

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8 (UPI) — A high U. S. official said today that he believes that North Vietnam "can make its own decisions" despite Chinese Communist influence.

William P. Bundy, assistant secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs, said he believed that Hanoi was "seeking to balance the assistance that it receives from the Chinese Communists and the assistance it receives from the Soviet Union."

Mr. Bundy's remarks were in an interview recorded for a number of educational television stations.

cause controls designed to prevent such an explosion by accident performed as intended."

Mr. Foster was replying to the Soviet delegate at the 17-nation disarmament talks, Semyon K. Tsarapkin, who had said that "only a fortunate stroke of luck" had averted a nuclear "catastrophe" as a result of the crash.

Vietnam's Future And the Generals

By Marquis Childs

HONOLULU—This conference called by President Johnson is a large blue chip put on the survival value of the wiry, exuberant Air Vice Marshal Nguyen Cao Ky, and the generals who rule with him. It is expected that Ky will not only survive but that with massive economic help from the United States the national leadership committee will eventually win the support of the peasants in the countryside.

By Asian standards "eventually" is a very long time. In view of many previous failures which ended if not in violence then in disastrous disillusion, this is a bold bet. But the fact that it has been placed with the flourish of Mr. Johnson's presence and an annual flow of at least a half-billion dollars a year for economic aid is powerful evidence of a determination to reverse the drift of recent years.

Any sensible bookmaker would quote long odds against the bet paying off. But after so many false tries this appears to be the right direction—a determined drive to raise the level of living in the countryside and close the gap of indifference and hostility between the peasant and the sophisticated city dweller.

Nor is Ky to be discounted as just another in the succession of opportunistic, Western-oriented military men willing to spend Uncle Sam's dollars so long as he is not interfered with. He has shown that he can and will work with the Americans on terms that do not altogether compromise his independence.

THIS, AT ANY RATE, is the official optimism behind the conference. So much official cheer has in the past proved bogus that this must be taken with great skepticism. Recent rumblings out of Vietnam have had the Ky government threatened by still another coup.

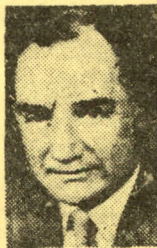
In this new beginning the role of Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge is interesting. When he returned from his first tour of duty in June of 1964, Lodge could hardly be rated an optimist. In private he talked of the diversity of peoples and sects among the Vietnamese and their almost total lack of any national coherence. He seemed almost to be saying that trying to pull them together was a hopeless task.

Yet at Johnson's request he went back for a second try, and he is largely responsible for bringing retired Maj. Gen. Edward G. Lansdale back to the team. Lansdale emphasized the need to win over the countryside if there is ever to be peace and stability in Vietnam short of a Communist takeover. If there is hope today, it rests in the combination of Ky, Lodge and Lansdale.

Aside from its promotional, publicity aspects, this meeting is a magnificent illustration of the American position in Southeast Asia. Here are the President of the United States, Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, two other Cabinet members, advisers, generals and admirals galore—in short, the top apparatus of the most powerful nation in the world. They came here to discuss a war that has been going badly in a primitive, ragged, partly broken country of probably fewer than 30 million people.

TO ENHANCE the paradox these men

QUANG TRI — Here in this most northerly of the provinces of South Vietnam, just below the allegedly demilitarized zone that marks the border with the Communist North, the nature of the problem that has been examined at Honolulu is peculiarly clear.



Alsop

One must begin by saying that this is by no means the awe-inspiring, intractable, and generally hopeless problem that timid and slanted or inexperienced people like Senators Mansfield and Fulbright seem to think. Providing the President is willing to wage war in earnest, all sorts of signs indicate that this is a war that can be won—perhaps a lot sooner than most people imagine.

In the Iadrang Valley battle in October, it is now known that an entire North Vietnamese division was put out of action, with more than a third of its men killed, wounded or missing. In the current fighting at Binh Dinh, close to two enemy regiments would appear to have been accounted for already, in much the same manner.

In this First Corps area, the aggressive efforts of the South Vietnamese army and the U.S. Marines have in recent months just about crossed off the slate two Vietcong "main force" regiments that had been based in this corps area's five provinces for at least two years. In addition, there are strong indications that the North Vietnamese and the Vietcong main forces are beginning to have something like the Second World War German-Italian relationship, mainly because the VC have been losing heart.

In sum, General Westmoreland's forward strategy

—his program of hunting and killing the enemy's backbone-force of regular troops—is already having far more success than most people imagine at home. The problem examined at Honolulu has only come into existence, in fact, because the North Vietnamese Communists have greatly expanded their invasion of South Vietnam, and are still threatening to expand it further.

YOU COULD see the nature of the problem at Pleiku, in the highlands, where I have just been. There they are worried about the relatively empty provinces of Quangduc and Lamdong, where the VC have rarely operated because there is no food. Lately, the VC have been bringing in rice from the lowlands, and these provinces are now open to invasion by the division chewed up at Iadrang, which has had three months to replace its losses, retrain and refit at a safe base across the Cambodian border.

Again, you could see the problem's nature at the isolated Special Forces Camp at Khesanh, over on the Laos border. Here I found the small outfit of Cap. John D. Waghelstein. They had been heavily attacked, but are still holding out although just about entirely surrounded by North Vietnamese regular troops.

Above all, you can see what the problem is here in Quangtri and the next province to the South, Thua-thien, where the ancient capital, Hue, is situated.

These two provinces have long been held and boldly defended by the first Vietnamese division under the able General Nguyen Van Chuan. In addition, there are about 2000 Marines here at Phubai; but the Marines' main job is to guard their base and except in acute emergency, they have little

offensive capability. Such, then, are the friendly forces.

EACH PROVINCE also contains at least three and probably four Vietcong main force battalions. By now, these include many North Vietnamese replacements and their morale is by no means what it was. Despite a convulsive effort, for instance, they have failed to retake the Balong Valley, a vital corridor.

The VC would be no great threat hereabouts, if it were not for the pattern up in the northwest corner of the province where the Khesanh post is situated. Just north of the post and already in South Vietnam is one North Vietnamese regiment, believed to be the 332d. Just across the Laos border, but ready to come in, is a second regiment. And just north of the border, in easy position to strike across the demilitarized zone, is an entire North Vietnamese division, probably the 304th.

No one can tell, of course, whether this large North Vietnamese force is in fact going to launch a major attack in the near future, in accordance with the program of the "winter-spring offensive" so loudly proclaimed by enemy propaganda. If they do so, General Chuan and General Westmoreland will have their work cut out to keep the enemy from seizing this provincial capital and Hue as well.

Because of the North Vietnamese invasion, in short, General Westmoreland does not have enough margin to keep the pressure continuously on the enemy, and also to give assurance of preventing disheartening though temporary local successes by the enemy in such exposed regions as this province or Quangduc. Margin is in fact the problem. Luckily it is a relatively easy problem to solve, providing the President is willing to wage war in earnest.

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command a power with the controls centered here such as has seldom been assembled. As the generals like to boast, the firepower brought against the Communist enemy is greater by far than any concentration in the past. The sorties flown by American planes vastly exceed any effort in World War II.

What emerged from the peace offensive was a baffling mystery—why, after this incessant impounding, did the regime in Hanoi give not the smallest indication of willingness to consider any diplomatic initiative? Even the slightest hint of interest in diplomatic exploration would have confused public opinion at home and abroad, however false may have been its intention. But all that came out of Hanoi was a stern, resounding no.

In a sense the purpose of the confer-

ence, insofar as it has a serious purpose beyond the propaganda show, is to examine this paradox. Over and over we have been told that only by winning the hearts and minds of the Vietnamese people will we achieve a victory that has meaning beyond the grim choice of pulverization or American occupation into the indefinite future to keep a puppet government in office.

This is the reason teams of American specialists in agriculture, health, and education are going to Vietnam. They are going presumably with the assurance from Ky that his government will cooperate with them in carrying out long-delayed reforms. And that may be the supreme paradox, that this jaunty, sophisticated, 35-year-old flyer and his cooperating generals are looked to as the last best hope in doing what so many have failed to do.

(JOHNSON-HUMPHREY-VIET NAM)

PRESIDENT JOHNSON ARRIVED IN WASHINGTON THIS MORNING AS THE PLANE CARRYING VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY NEARED HAWAII. THE PRESIDENT HAS DIRECTED HUMPHREY TO TRAVEL WITH SOUTH VIET NAM'S TOP LEADERSHIP FROM HONOLULU TO SAIGON AND PRESS FOR VIGOROUS ACTION ON PLANS FOR POLITICAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REFORM IN THE BATTLE-RAVAGED NATION. JOHNSON AND HUMPHREY MET LAST NIGHT IN LOS ANGELES FOR A CONFERENCE ABOUT HUMPHREY'S ASIAN TOUR. THE TEN TO 12-DAY TOUR WILL TAKE THE VICE PRESIDENT TO THAILAND, INDIA, PAKISTAN, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND WHERE HE IS TO EXPLAIN THE RESULTS AND MEANING OF JOHNSON'S THREE-DAY SUMMIT MEETING WITH VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS IN HONOLULU.

--D A S H--

(JOHNSON TOLD A CROWD AT LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LAST NIGHT THAT HE RETURNS FROM THE HONOLULU MEETINGS, AS HE DESCRIBES IT, "CONFIDENT THAT WE SHALL PREVAIL" IN THE FIGHT AGAINST AGGRESSION IN VIET NAM.

(JOHNSON AND SOUTH VIETNAMESE LEADERS ISSUED THE SO-CALLED "DECLARATION OF HONOLULU," OUTLINING JOINT GOALS OF DETERMINED MILITARY EFFORTS COUPLED WITH ATTACKS ON HUNGER, IGNORANCE AND DISEASE. THE COMMUNIQUE ALSO SAYS THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE COMMITTED TO AN UNENDING QUEST FOR PEACE.

(HOWEVER, AT A NEWS CONFERENCE, THE VIETNAMESE PREMIER AND CHIEF OF STATE SAID THEY FAVOR A STEPPED-UP AIR WAR AGAINST NORTH VIET NAM--TO INCLUDE BOMBING THE PORT OF HAIPHONG (HY-FOHNG').

(THE CHIEF OF STATE ALSO SAYS HE IS UNWILLING TO SIT DOWN AT A CONFERENCE TABLE WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT--ALTHOUGH U-S OFFICIALS HAVE SAID VIET CONG PARTICIPATION WOULD NOT BE A ROAD BLOCK TO STARTING NEGOTIATIONS.)

(HANOI TANKS)

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEFENSE MINISTRY IN LAOS SAID TODAY NORTH VIETNAMESE TANKS HAVE BEEN SIGHTED HEADED THROUGH LAOS FOR SOUTH VIET NAM. U-S MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN SAIGON SAY THEY HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE ON REPORTS OF THE TANK MOVEMENT, AND REFUSED TO COMMENT.

--DASH--

(THE LAOTIAN SPOKESMAN SAID THE TANKS WERE SPOTTED BY MILITARY INTELLIGENCE, MOVING ON THE HO CHI MINH (HOH CHEE MEEN) TRAIL. HE SAYS IT IS THE FIRST TIME TANKS HAVE BEEN SEEN ON THE COMMUNIST SUPPLY ROUTE.

(ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO OFFICIAL AMERICAN COMMENT, MILITARY SOURCES IN SAIGON SAY THEY ARE SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE REPORT. THEY SAY THE TANKS MIGHT ADD TO THE COMMUNIST FIREPOWER IN SOUTH VIET NAM. BUT THEY ALSO WOULD BE CHOICE TARGETS FOR U-S ARTILLERY AND PLANES BECAUSE THEY LACK THE MOBILITY OF THE LUSIVE GUERRILLA FORCES.

(IN ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT, THE LAOTIAN SPOKESMAN REPORTS COMMUNIST FORCES NORTHEAST OF VIENTIANE (VEE-ANT-YAHN') HAVE MOVED SOUTH TOWARD THE MEKONG (MAY'-KONG) RIVER. HE SAYS THE RED TROOPS TOOK ONE TOWN AND THREE GOVERNMENT BATTALIONS HAVE BEEN SENT TO REINFORCE ANOTHER TOWN UNDER ATTACK.)

(HO LETTER)

THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA HAS REPLIED TO A 15-DAY-OLD LETTER FROM NORTH VIETNAMESE PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH, WHICH HAS RAISED WORLD-WIDE SPECULATION HO HAS SIGNALLED FOR NEGOTIATIONS. BUT ONE INDIAN SPOKESMAN PUT A DAMPER ON PEACE HOPES TODAY, SAYING THE LETTER FROM HANOI WAS MOSTLY CONCERNED WITH STATING NORTH VIET NAM'S POSITION.

--DASH--

(THE SPOKESMAN SAYS THAT EXCEPT FOR EMPHASIZING INDIA'S POSITION AS CHAIRMAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONTROL COMMISSION, THE LETTER DID NOT GO BEYOND PREVIOUS HANOI STATEMENTS ABOUT THE WAR.

(THE HANOI LETTER--WHICH ALSO CALLED UPON INDIA TO USE ITS POSITION TO HELP BRING ABOUT AN END TO FIGHTING--CAME AS A SURPRISE YESTERDAY TO MANY U-S OFFICIALS. AND SENATE LEADERS MIKE MANSFIELD AND J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT SAID HO'S MESSAGE MIGHT POSSIBLY BE A SIGNIFICANT STEP TOWARD NEGOTIATIONS.

(THE LETTER ALSO ROCKED THE NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE, CAUSING THE HEAVIEST TRADING IN MONTHS ON DEFENSE STOCKS.)

(CONGRESS-VIET NAM)

THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE BEGINS WORK TODAY ON AN EMERGENCY MILITARY FUND REQUEST OF FOUR (B) BILLION 800 (M) MILLION DOLLARS FOR THE VIET NAM WAR, WITH APPROVAL EXPECTED. THIS ACTION WOULD OPEN THE WAY FOR LATER HANDLING OF THE FULL 12 (B) BILLION 800 (M) MILLION DOLLAR VIET NAM PACKAGE REQUESTED BY PRESIDENT JOHNSON.